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Statement of Senator Mansfield

Mike Mansfield 1903-2001

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March 6, 1964

COPY
STATEMENT OF SENATOR MIKE MANSFIELD (D., MONTANA)

Mr. President:

The press frequently carries reports of Communist inspired demonstrations against the United States. We read of student groups stoning our embassies, destroying American owned vehicles, profaning monuments to this nation and even bombing U. S. property. Shock and indignation leads us to forget that these are the acts of a minority who lose no opportunity to undermine the United States. But general attitudes abroad are not and need not be, by any means, so one-sided with respect to this nation as these incidents would suggest. Witness, for example, the immense and sincere outpouring of grief in reaction to the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. Letters still arrive daily from Europe, from Asia, from Africa and from Latin America which express a poignant sympathy.

In January, an incident took place in Japan which bears upon the same point. When Attorney General Robert Kennedy returned to the campus of the University of Waseda a few weeks ago he found a sharp change had taken place since his visit in 1962. During his earlier visit, his attempt to address the student body was interrupted by shouts and whistles of derision and by demonstrations. On the occasion of his second visit, he was greeted warmly and listened to with deep attention.

An editorial from the January 26, 1964 issue of the Japan Times entitled "Kennedy Back at Waseda" is a well reasoned analysis of the contrast in the two receptions at Waseda and of the part played by Mr. Kennedy's calm demeanor and personal understanding in bringing about the change for the better. I ask unanimous consent that the editorial be included at this point in the Record.